

Exhibit 4

a proposal

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U.S. FOREST SERVICE
STAR ROUTE

SEASIDE, S. C. 29581

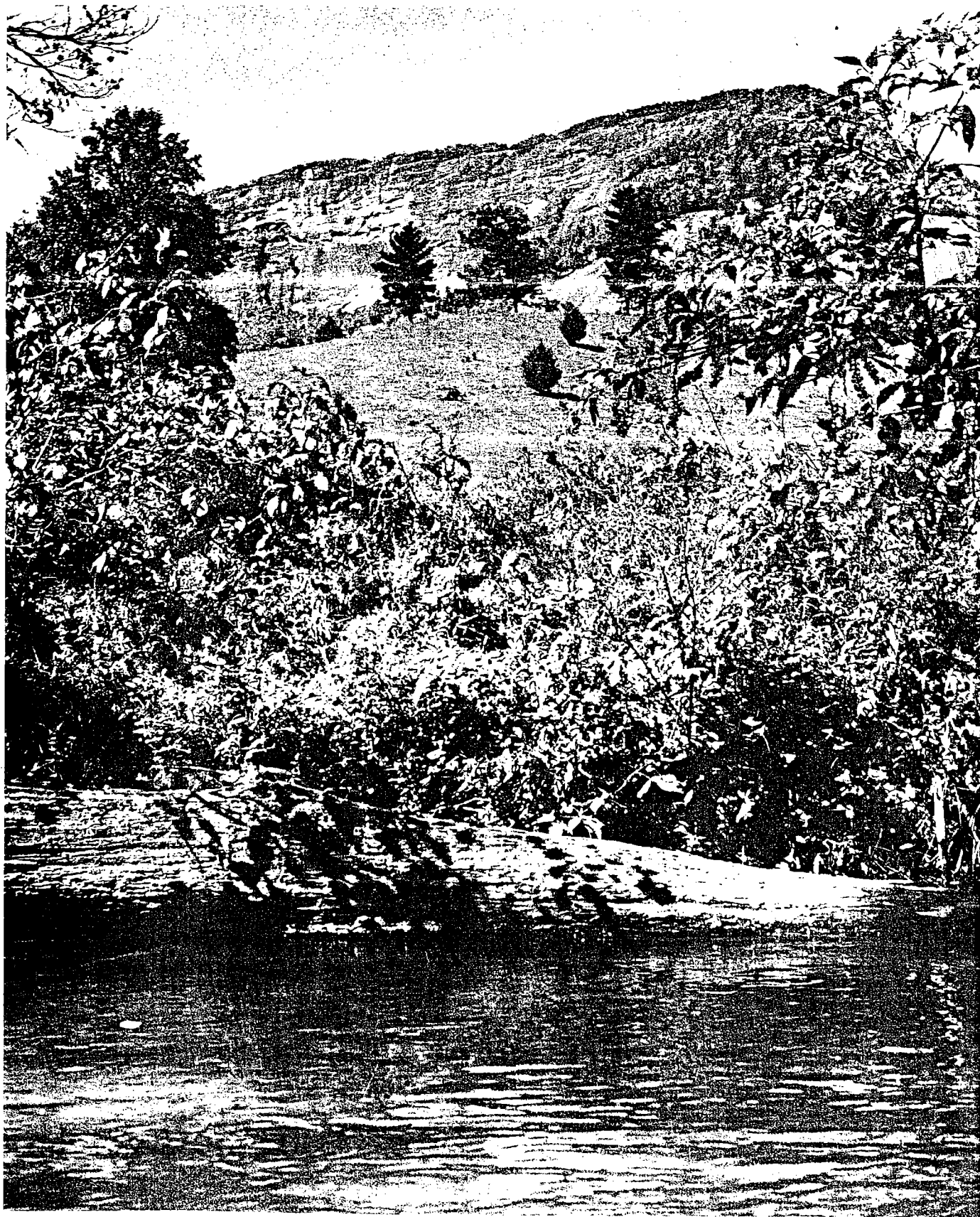
THE CHATTOOGEA

"a wild and
scenic river"



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE





WHITESIDES FROM THE CHATTOOGA

a proposal

THE CHATTOOGA

"a wild and scenic river"

MARCH 3, 1970

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INTRODUCTION

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542, directed that the entire Chattooga River be studied for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Chattooga, with all its tributaries, was studied from Lake Tugaloo, in Georgia and South Carolina, to its headwaters in North Carolina, a distance of 54 miles. Many of the tributaries failed to meet the criteria set forth in the Act and were dropped from further study.

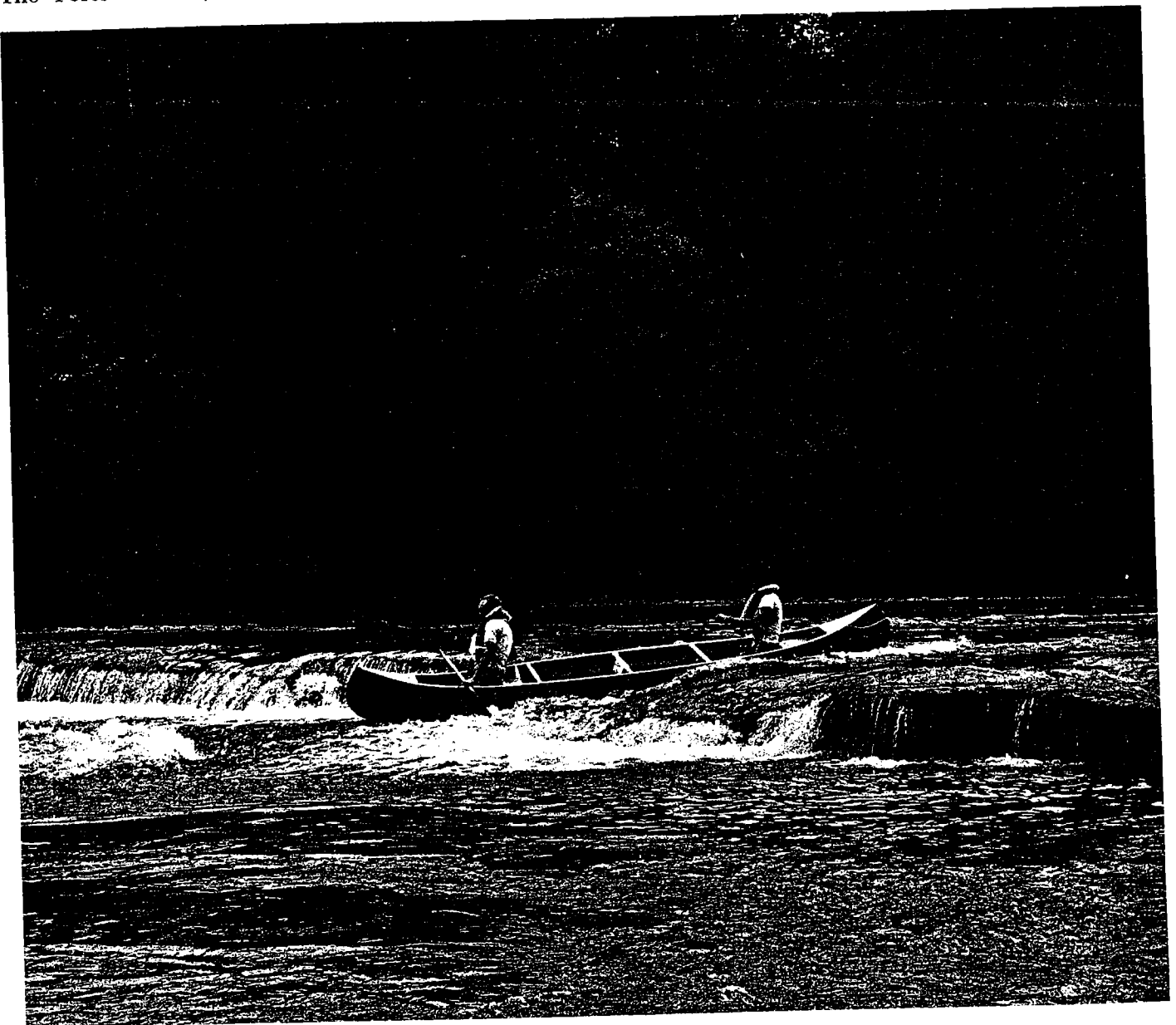
This report deals with the main stream, the entire 6 miles of the West Fork, and the lower reaches of Overflow, Holcomb and Big Creeks.

The Forest Service, United States Department of

Agriculture, was given the responsibility of conducting the study. It was accomplished by a Task Force consisting of—

- Representatives from the three National Forests—Chattahoochee-Oconee in Georgia, Francis Marion and Sumter in South Carolina, and the National Forests in North Carolina.
- Representatives appointed by the Governors of Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.
- Representatives of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, United States Department of Interior.

This report is a brief analysis of the Chattooga River in which proposed boundaries are delineated, river classifications are recommended and a general plan of management and development is presented.



CROSSING AN EASY SHOALS

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Chattooga River begins on the crest of the Blue Ridge in mountainous North Carolina, near the eastern flank of Whitesides Mountain. It flows southward for 10 miles in North Carolina, then continues for 40 miles as the boundary between the states of South Carolina and Georgia. In this 50 mile rush of water, the river drops from 3360 feet to 891 feet for an average fall of 49.3 feet per mile.

This is one of the longest and largest free-flowing rivers in the Southeast, relatively primitive and undeveloped. Roads cross the river at only 5 places and for most of its length it is hemmed in by forest, without fields, farms, homes, or other signs of civilization. The Chattooga is the only mountain river in the four-state area of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee without substantial commercial, agricultural, or residential development along its shores. It is easily accessible from large population centers of the Eastern United States. Visitors to this river are instantly transported into an unspoiled natural whitewater river wilderness.

The beauty of the rapids of the Chattooga and the beauty of its scenery are unsurpassed. The river begins as a sparkling mountain stream cascading down the green, heavily forested sides of the Blue Ridge and continuing between high ridges through the Chattooga River Gorge. The first 5-1/2 miles of the Chattooga are almost completely primitive and include several waterfalls and some of the most spectacular long range vistas on the whole river. The river here is small and drops rapidly through densely forested slopes. Farms and summer homes can be glimpsed briefly at Grimshaw's Bridge. Below Grimshaw's, the river can be floated by rubber raft.

For the next 16 miles, the river flows through remote forested country, following a narrow tortuous route over continuous rapids, cascading around boulders and through self-cut rock flumes and intermittent quiet, deep pools. Most of this section of the river is confined in a deep, fast-descending gorge between high ridges. Only two narrow Forest Service roads break out of dense forest to span the river in the entire 16 mile section.

At the end of this stretch, the river drops out of the Chattooga Gorge and for the next six miles flows smoothly through a section bounded by fields, farms, and summer homes. The West Fork joins the main river here and the two streams provide some easy canoeing water through an area of pastoral development. Highway 28 parallels the stream along this section.

The next 16 miles pass through completely primitive inaccessible forested country. This spectacular portion of the river includes many beautiful rapids, broad stretches winding around islands, and narrow swift rushes over cascades and ledges. It affords the canoeist with a variety of whitewater rapids, and a rare two-day canoe run. One dirt road at Earl's Ford stops at the boundary and does not cross the river.

The river then begins its final 6-1/2 mile run to Tugaloo Reservoir over the most exciting stretch of cascading whitewater on the entire river. The first 3-1/2 miles are primitive except for the Highway 76 bridge crossing. The last 3 miles below Stekoa Creek are polluted and, although primitive and inaccessible, do not at present meet Wild, Scenic or Recreation River criteria.

The West Fork, flowing entirely in Georgia, joins the main Chattooga near Highway 28. The upper 1-1/2 miles of the West Fork are a completely inaccessible whitewater stream. The lower 4 miles form a smooth, slow stretch of water flowing through an area of pastureland and paralleling roads.

The Act provides three classifications which may be applied to a river or any segment thereof. These classes are Wild, Scenic, and Recreational. A river may have all or only one or two of these classes, depending on its characteristics and degrees of development.

Under the Criteria defined in Section 2(b) of Public Law 90-542, the Chattooga River can be divided into six distinctive sections and the West Fork can be divided into two sections. Of these eight sections, three qualify under Wild River Criteria, two qualify under Scenic River Criteria, two qualify under Recreation River Criteria, and one, because of low water quality, does not now meet the criteria for any of the three classes as defined by the Act.

DEFINITION OF CLASSES

Eligibility of rivers for inclusion under the three classes is defined in the Act as follows:

"(1) Wild river areas—Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

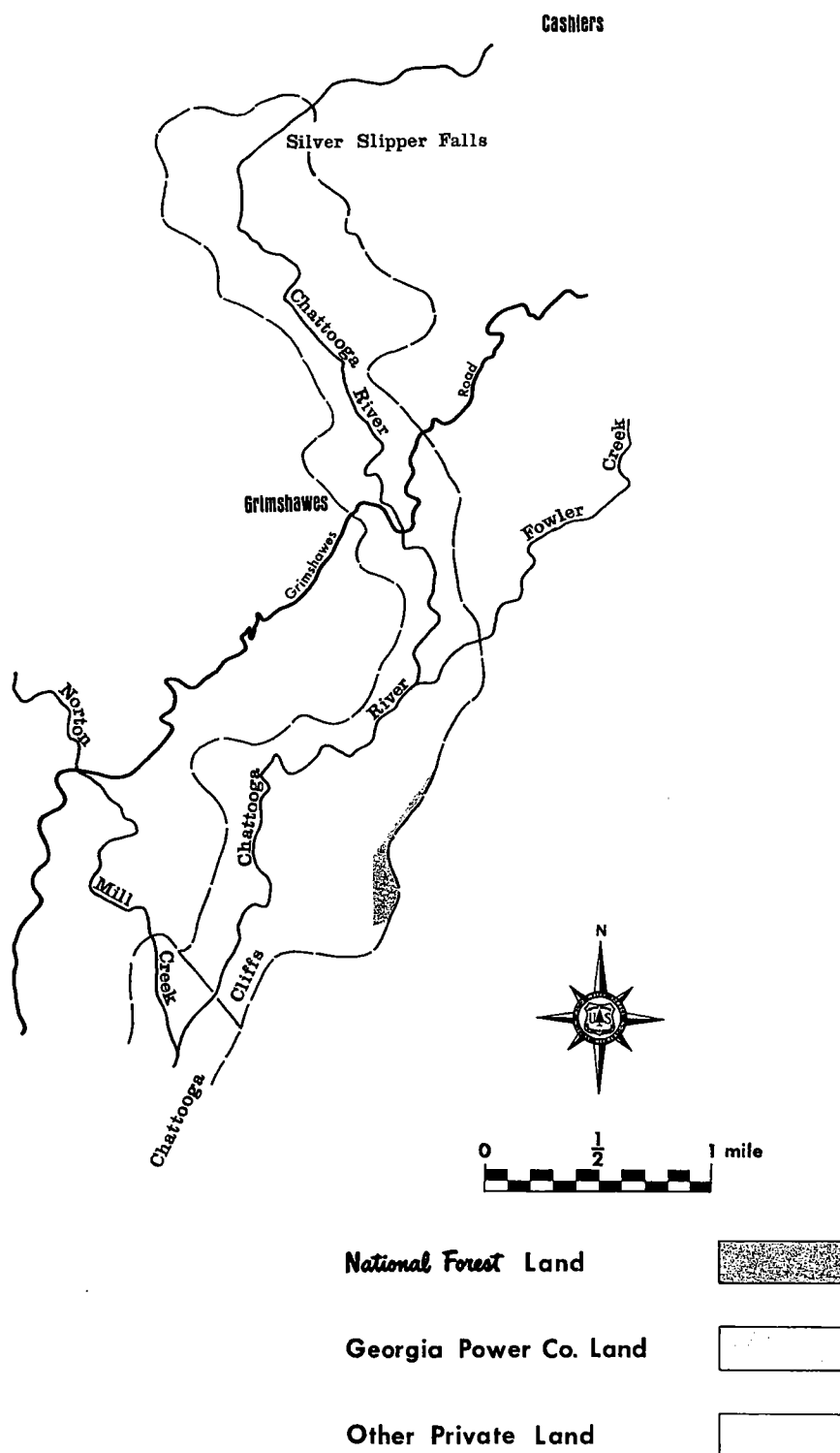
(2) Scenic river areas—Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

(3) Recreation river areas—Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past."

On the following pages are the recommended classifications for the Chattooga River and the West Fork.

Section 1 · Scenic Class

Chattooga River



SECTION 1—SCENIC RIVER CLASS

This section includes 5.5 miles of the headwaters of the Chattooga from eight-tenths mile below Cashiers Lake (river mile 53.9) to two-tenths mile above Norton Mill Creek (river mile 48.4).

Above this point, the Chattooga is only a small stream a few feet wide trickling off the Blue Ridge crest. It is too small to be considered a river and should not be included in the proposed boundary.

Section 1, including Silver Slipper Falls and the Chattooga Cliffs, includes the most magnificent long range views and cascades on the river. Silver Slipper Falls drops steeply down the mountainside for over 150 feet, partially framing a view of 2000 foot nearby Whitesides Mountain. At the foot of the falls, the river plunges into dense forest for 1/3 mile, then turns eastward on a gentle slope through a young forest growing in abandoned fields. Past this, the river drops sharply over Ribbon Falls for 75 feet down the mountainside. The course continues rapidly through the forest and a succession of rapids, cascades and small waterfalls.

Above Grimshaw's Bridge, the river enters a valley with forested old fields and parallels a series of large open pastures on the south side. A barn and several summer homes are visible from the river. Grimshaw's Bridge Crossing is at river mile 51.4, accessible by a country road. The section below the bridge can be floated by rubber raft and provides exciting trips over small rapids and cascades with frequent portages around difficult cascades and narrow sluices.

A woods road runs down to the river at Fowler Creek (river mile 50.6). Past logging practices can be seen here and a foot trail parallels the stream down to Greens Creek (river mile 49.7). Just above Greens Creek, the river crashes over a massive precipice and down 25-foot high Corkscrew Falls. The west bank rises almost 50 feet above the falls and the gradient of the riverbed becomes more moderate below the falls.

At river mile 49.0, an old meadow and an abandoned log house can be observed on the north side. This is Munroe House and its construction is a study of unusual pioneer architecture. The remains of an old chimney near this house mark the site of the earliest known settlement by white men in the Chattooga Gorge.

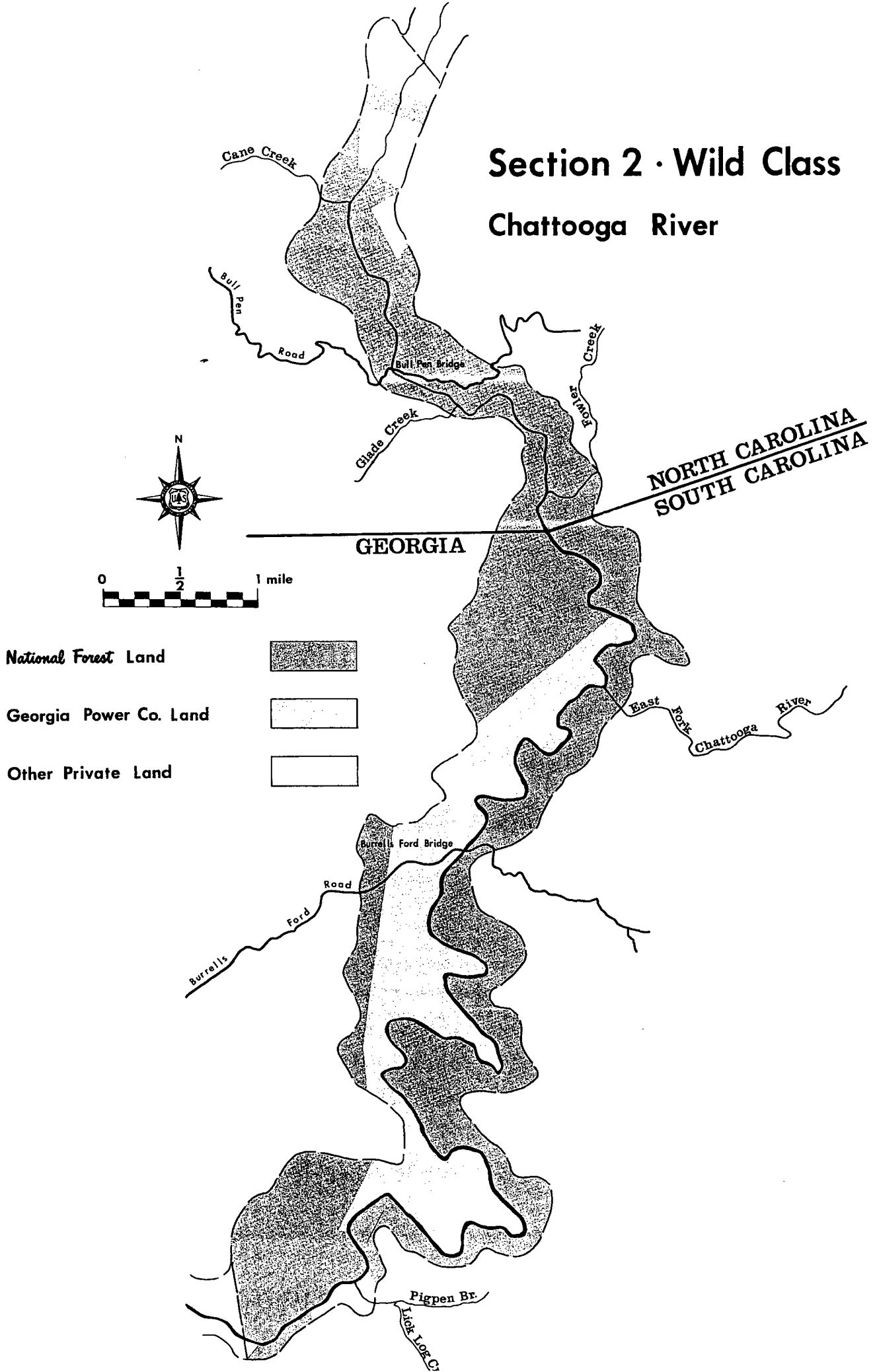
Section One of the Chattooga provides some of the most dramatic scenery found on the river. The stream is small and its banks are broken by occasional old fields and evidence of past land uses. Although a large part is primitive and undisturbed, the area of rural development, with farmhouses, summer homes and several old bridges scattered through the section make it suitable only for Scenic River classification.



RIBBON FALLS

Section 2 · Wild Class

Chattooga River



SECTION 2—WILD RIVER CLASS

This section covers a distance of 15.9 miles beginning two-tenths mile above Norton Mill Creek, river mile 48.4, and ending at the Nicholson Fields, river mile 32.5. Of this section, 4.3 miles are in North Carolina and 11.6 miles lie between Georgia and South Carolina.

This entire section is in a completely natural state. It includes some beautiful but hazardous whitewater. Enormous boulders, some over 50 feet high with trees on top, rise from the riverbed. This part of the river can be floated only in rubber rafts and many

dangerous portions must be portaged. In the entire 15.9 miles, only two narrow bridges cross the river.

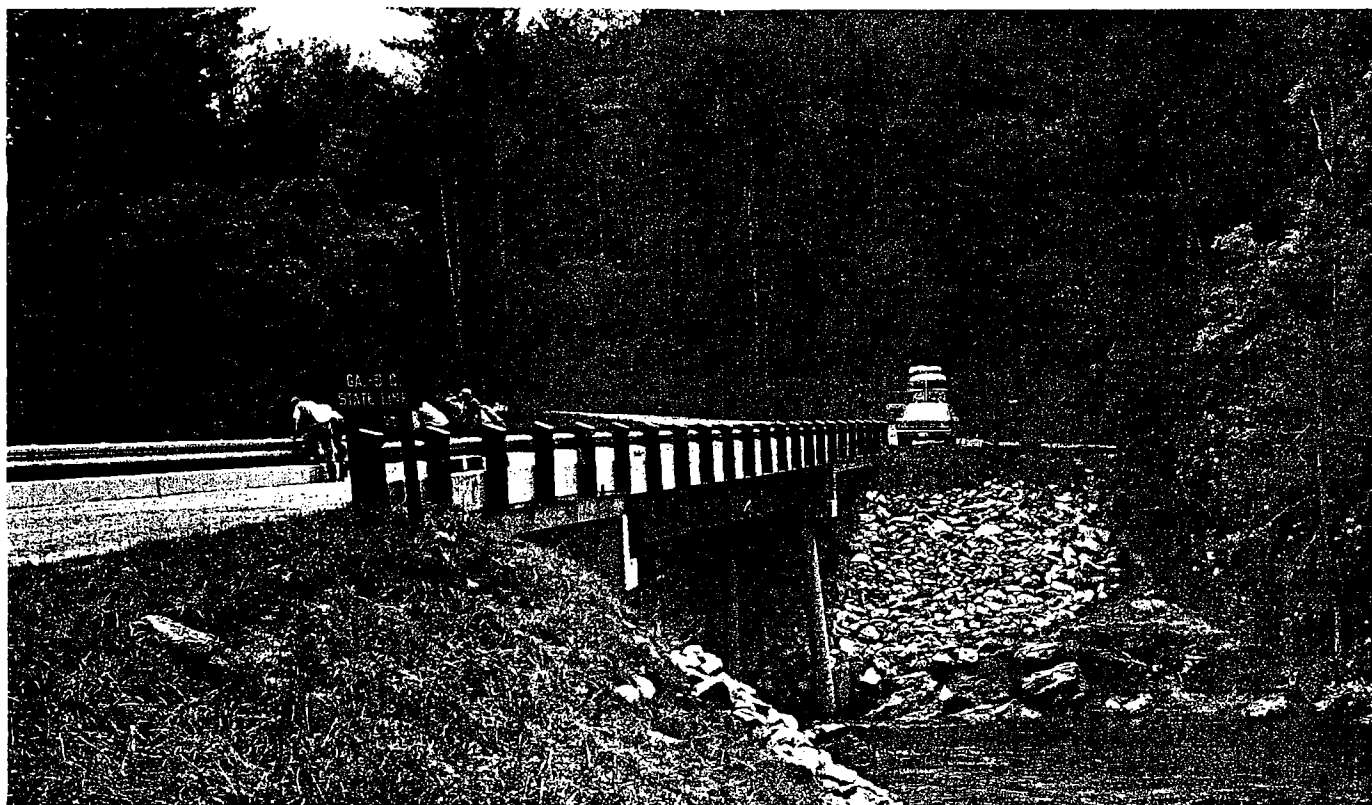
The stream averages 25-30 feet in width at the beginning of this section and drops on a generally steep gradient through rugged whitewater cascades hemmed in by dense vegetation and high ridges. In many places, sheer rock outcrops and cliffs rise 400-600 feet above the river. The Chattooga Cliffs, a series of these outcrops 2800-3300 feet in elevation, continue for 2-1/2 miles down the river. Two-thirds of a day are required to raft the first 2-1/2 miles of this section because of the many portages.



HANGING ROCK



BULL PEN BRIDGE



BURRELLS FORD BRIDGE



HIGH FALLS

Bullpen Bridge spans the stream at river mile 46.2, then the river turns sharply east through a series of cascades and sluices broken by long stretches of smooth easy water. At Ellicotts Rock, the river leaves North Carolina to become the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina. From the junction with the East Fork at river mile 42.5 to Burrell's Ford at river mile 40.5, the Chattooga drops over 16 cascades. At Burrell's Ford, a concrete bridge spans the river and a partially developed recreation area lies inconspicuously on the east side.

The 8.0 mile section from Burrell's Ford to the Nicholson Fields is one of the most difficult portions of the river. This stretch includes exciting but treacherous whitewater. It flows around huge rocks and through narrow sluices and drops over 21 small waterfalls and rapids in less than two miles. At river mile 35.6, the Chattooga enters Rock Gorge, the steepest part of the Chattooga River Gorge. Huge, house-size boulders constrict the river into a narrow channel over numerous falls and sluices. Below Licklog Creek, river mile 33.4, the gradient is much easier and the steep ridges on either side begin to widen, down to Nicholson Fields.

This 15.9 mile section of the Chattooga is totally primitive and inaccessible except for two narrow roads with bridges crossing the river and the partially developed recreation area at Burrell's Ford. To recommend classification of this section as less than Wild River would be a failure to recognize the qualities of one of the most primitive, inaccessible and challenging sections on the River.

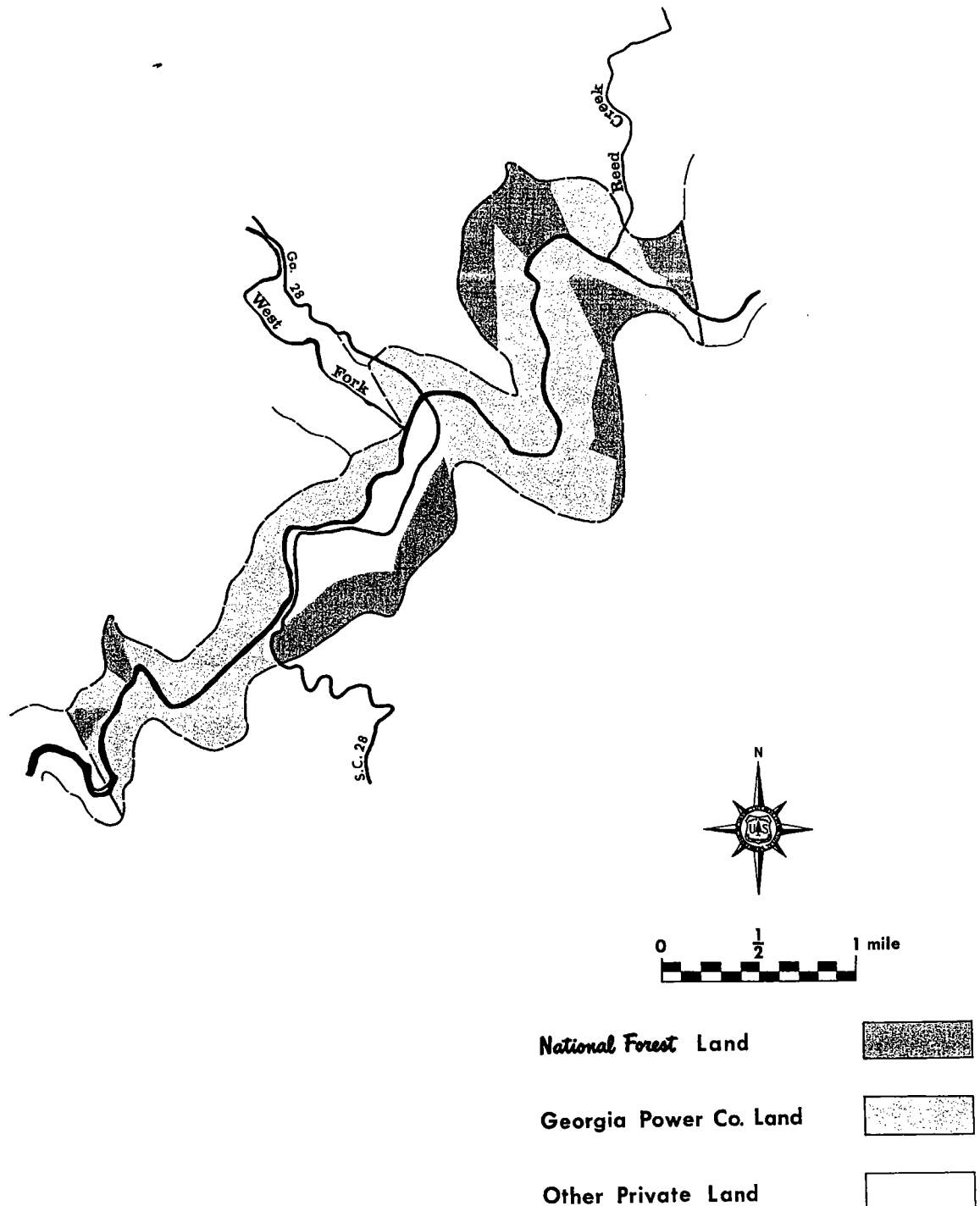
The two bridge points and the recreation area do not fully fit the criteria for this class. Development plans call for conversion of Burrell Ford's Recreation Area to a Primitive Campground that will satisfy Wild River criteria. Three alternatives should be considered. Public reaction is requested on these alternatives—

- Recommend classification of the entire section as Wild River with the two bridges in place;
- Recommend classification as a Wild River, excepting the small sections at the bridges;
- Recommend removal of the bridges and classification as Wild River.

The final recommendation will be made by the U.S. Forest Service based on public opinion.

Section 3 · Recreation Class

Chattooga River



SECTION 3—RECREATION RIVER CLASS

Section 3 includes 6.1 miles of the river beginning at Nicholson Fields, river mile 32.5, and ending at Turnhole, river mile 26.4.

This section is entirely different from the wild, cascading section above it. At the beginning of this portion, the river changes abruptly into a smooth stream. It flows easily through progressively gentle gradients and an area of fields, farms and homes. This is the slowest section of the entire river, dropping an average of only 12 feet per mile. It is shallow and easy for the inexperienced canoeist. It is in a pleasantly pastoral area, with long views up to the steep mountains in the background. Except for a short segment near Grimshaws Bridge, this is the only section with farms and homes. It is also closely parallel to a main highway. The open fields on each side of Highway 28 were once the site of Chattooga Old Town, a large Indian settlement. Highway 28 crosses the Chattooga at river mile 29.6, then runs

a parallel course, 100-1000 feet away, for 1.8 miles on the South Carolina side. There are over 20 homes lying between the river and the highway below the bridge crossing.

The West Fork joins the Chattooga at river mile 29.4, adding greatly to the volume of water. This is the largest tributary of the Chattooga and is described in Sections 7 and 8. From here, the river runs slowly with no rapids and traffic noise from the highway is audible. About two miles below the bridge, the river leaves Highway 28, veering sharply west into wooded country and flows for .6 miles to Turnhole.

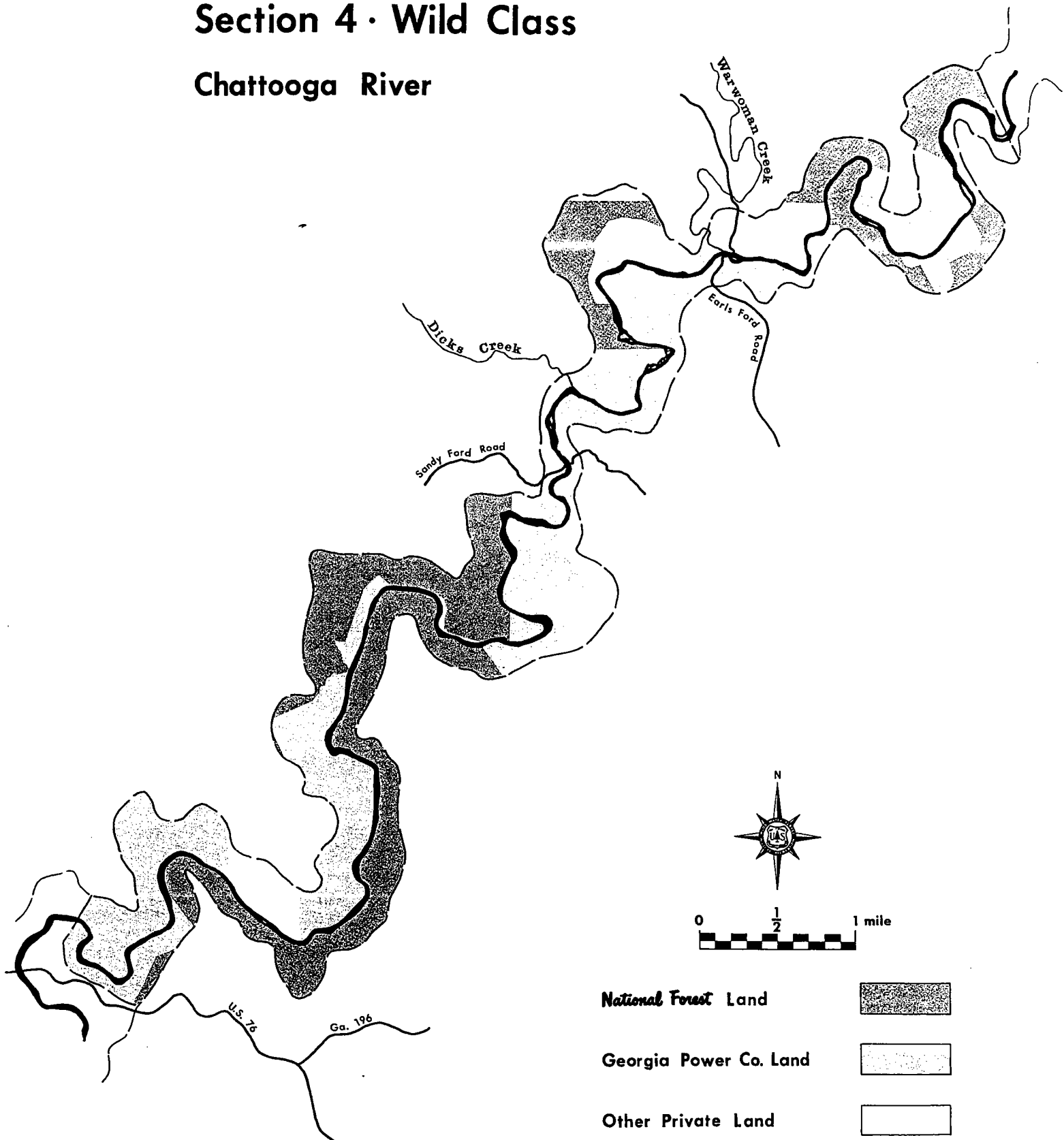
This 6.1 mile section cannot meet the criteria for Wild or Scenic Classifications because of the fields, homes, and highway along a major part of its length. It provides an easy stretch of canoe waters suitable for beginners. With highway access and shoreline development it meets Recreation River criteria.

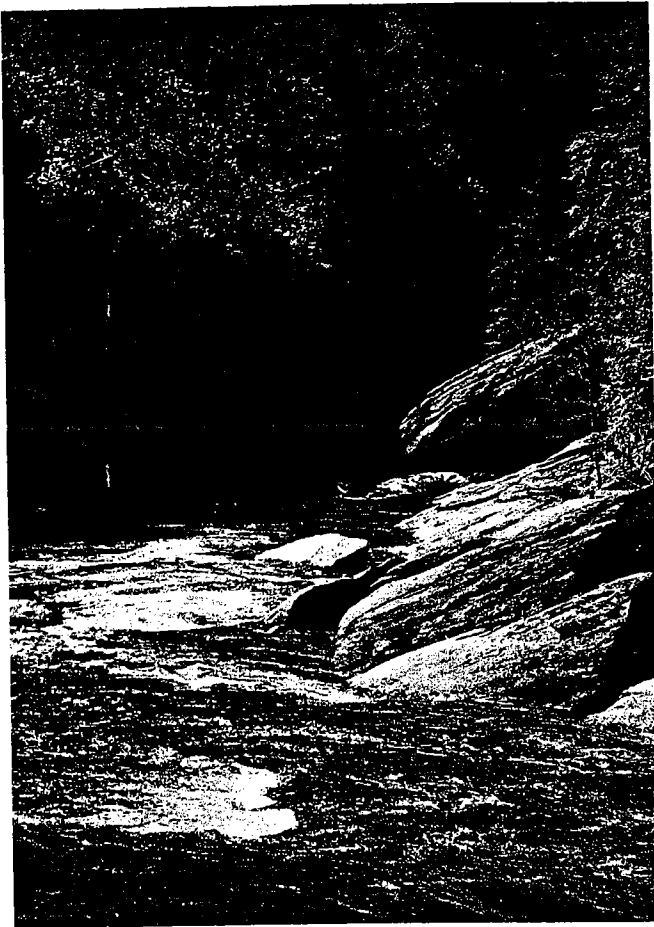


CANOEING A QUIET POOL

Section 4 · Wild Class

Chattooga River





THE NARROWS

SECTION 4—WILD RIVER CLASS

This section covers a distance of 15.8 miles from Turnhole, river mile 26.4, to Bull Sluice, mile 10.6. It begins as easy canoeing water and becomes progressively more difficult downstream.

The river is 75 feet wide at the beginning, flowing slowly between heavily wooded slopes. Just below Turnhole, it divides around a large island and drops over two easy rapids for a short smooth run to Big Shoals. Here it divides around a large boulder and drops down a 5-foot ledge through boiling white-water. The next 3 miles are over easy rapids, around several islands and through a series of shallow rapids to Earls Ford. Warwoman Creek joins the river at Earls Ford, increasing the volume of water significantly. Below this point the degree of canoeing difficulty increases. The next twelve miles to Bull Sluice has been called the most beautiful stretch of white-water in the southeast—unexcelled for both scenery and canoeing water.

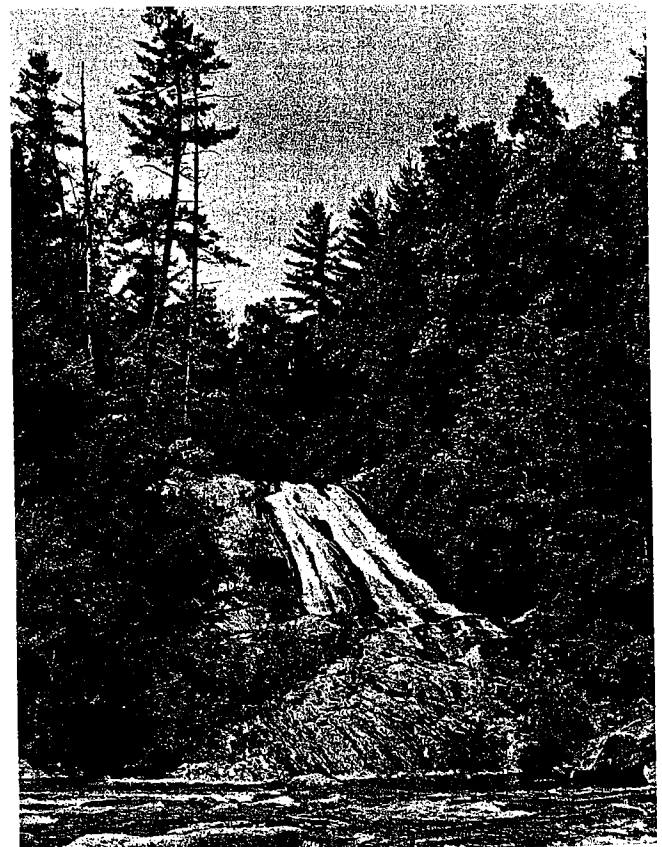
Leaving Earls Ford, steep ridges closes in on the river as it drops over rapids, around boulders and down ledges. A series of easy rapids then occurs in a six mile stretch to Rock Garden, where several large rock slabs jut out of the river and shoreline at a 45 degree angle, creating unusual rock formations.

The river continues over several difficult rapids and a stretch of turbulent water to Dicks Creek at river mile 19.6. Here Dicks Creek Falls cascades 50 feet down into the river. This is probably the most beautiful waterfall along the entire river. Travelers in canoes and rafts must portage around a 10-foot high falls in the main stream directly at the base of Dicks Creek Falls.

Below Dicks Creek, the river flows past a series of round-topped rocks and by two large islands to Sandy Ford. It then falls over some easy rapids and enters the Narrows. This is a long and difficult rapid where the stream narrows to a 6-foot width, pouring over several ledges in quick succession. Two hundred yards farther along, a steep ledge must be portaged. After several moderate rapids, the river enters another fairly calm one-mile stretch.




At river mile 13.7, the exciting Falls Creek Falls drops into the river. For the next 3 miles to Bull Sluice, the river moves steadily over moderate shoals and rapids with several abrupt chutes. Bull Sluice is 300 yards above the U.S. Highway 76 bridge. Bull Sluice is an impassable 10-foot high falls that must be portaged. It is extremely dangerous because it has an easy approach through fast water and is hidden from view until too late to escape the sluice.

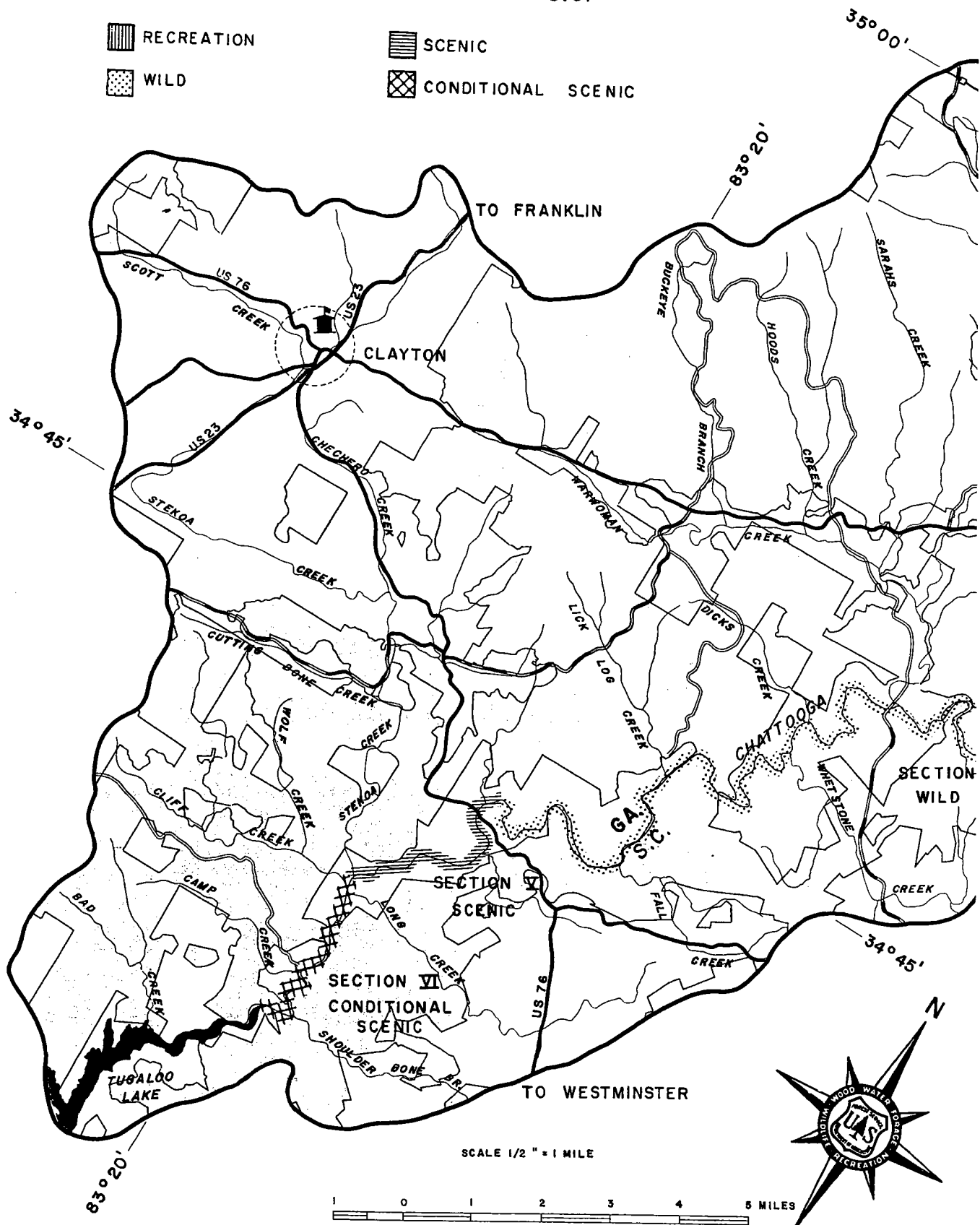
This section of the Chattooga is completely primitive and generally inaccessible. It meets the criteria for a Wild River.

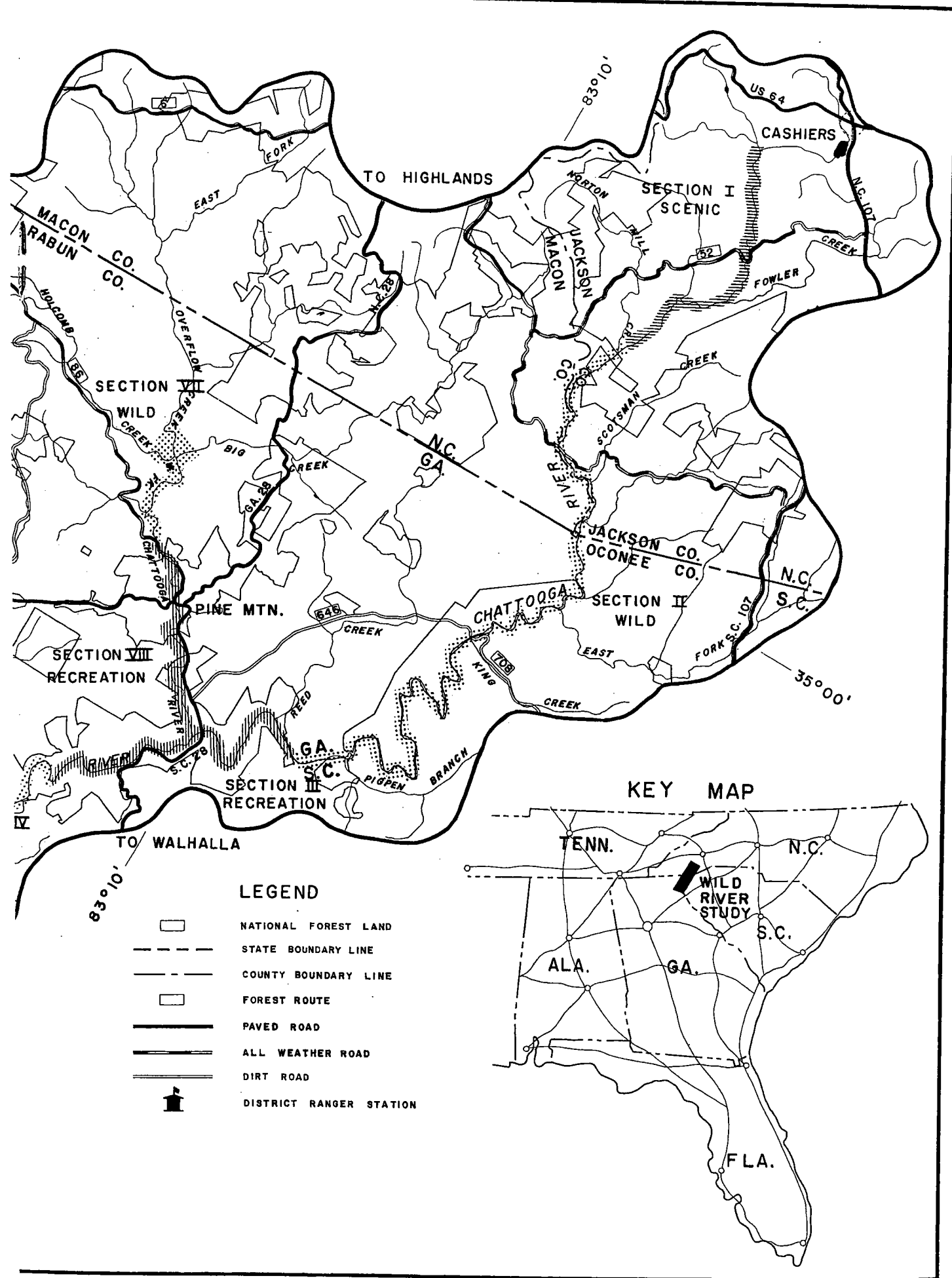


DICKS CREEK FALLS

CHATTOOGA RIVER
 CHATTAHOOCHEE National Forest GA.
 NANTAHALA National Forest N.C.
 SUMTER National Forest S.C.

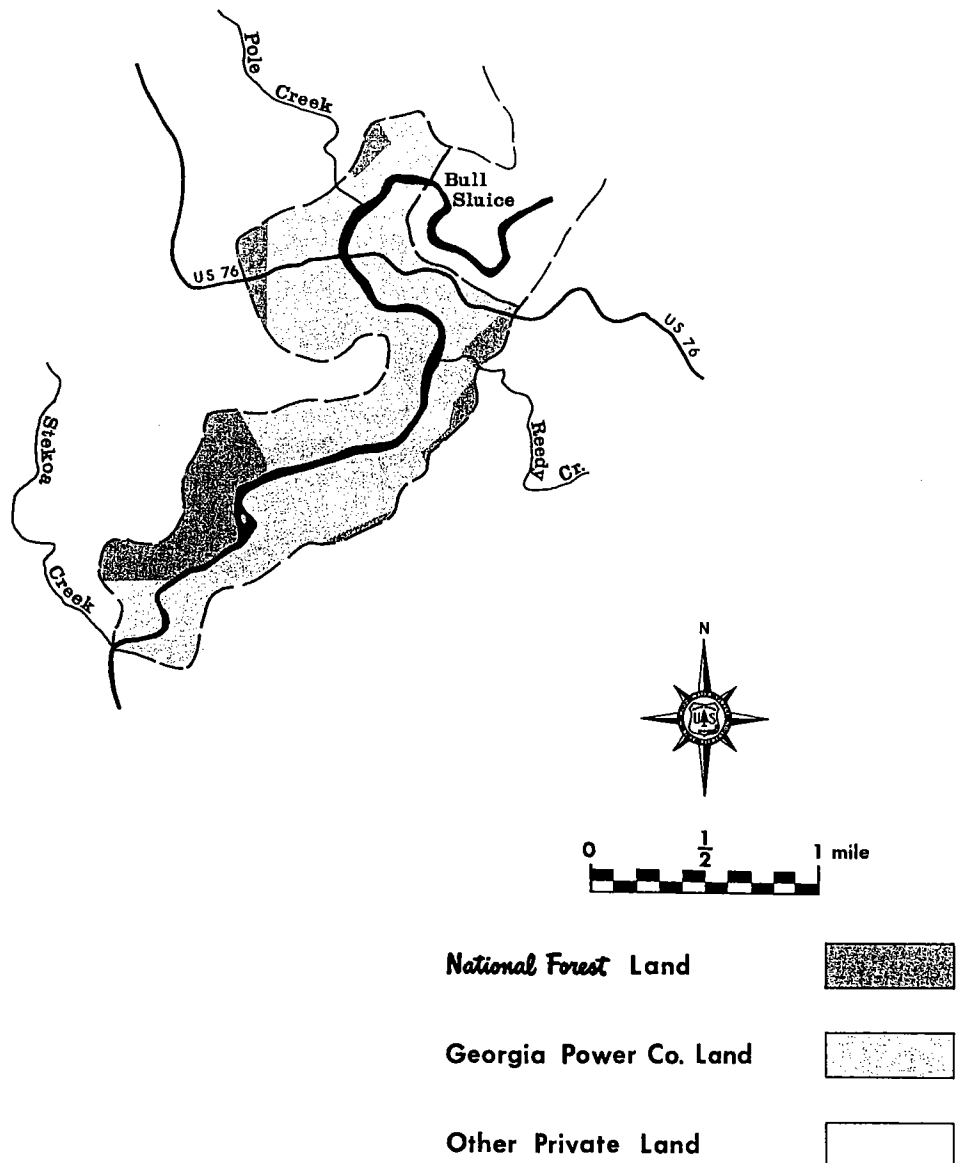
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|--|--|
|  RECREATION |  SCENIC |
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Section 5 · Scenic Class

Chattooga River



SECTION 5—SCENIC RIVER CLASS

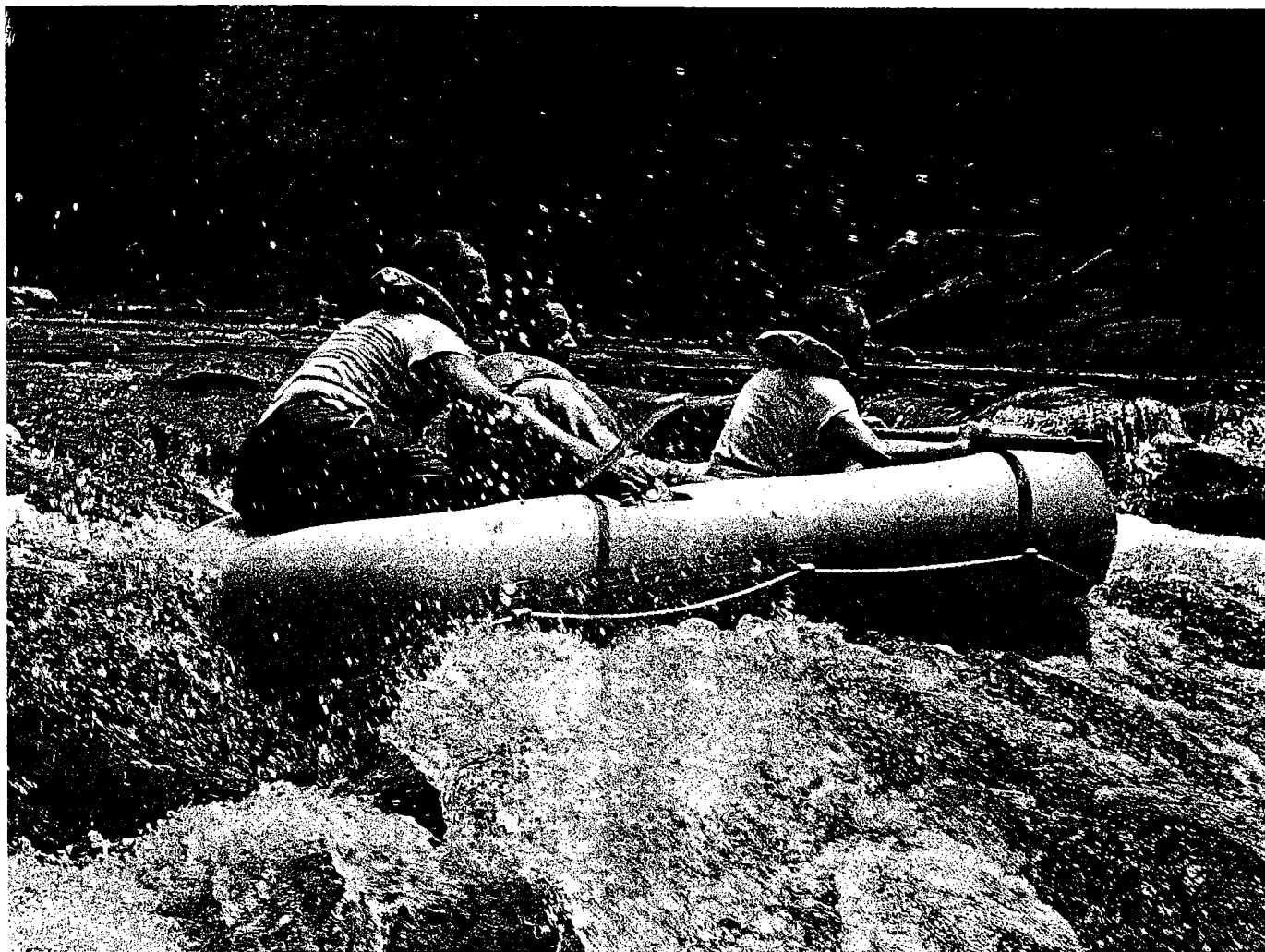
Section 5 runs from Bull Sluice at river mile 10.6 to Stekoa Creek at river mile 7.1. This 3.5 mile section covers half the remaining distance to Tugaloo Reservoir.

This is the first part of the most exciting, difficult, fast-dropping run of continuous whitewater on the entire Chattooga River. Except for U.S. Highway 76, which crosses 300 yards below Bull Sluice, this section is generally primitive and inaccessible. The remains of an old bridge, some evidence of sandmining, and a dirt access road to the water—are located immediately adjacent to U.S. 76 bridge. Around the bend from the bridge, the river flows through undisturbed country with deeply forested ridges rising easily on either side. The river is over 200 feet wide here and flows smoothly with considerable volume around a succession of rocks and boulders protruding out of the water and along the banks. Within the first mile, the river drops over nine steep cascading rapids.

For the next mile to Woodall Shoals, the river flows

smoothly with only two difficult rapids. At Woodall Shoals, the Chattooga twists narrowly to the right around gigantic rock shoals and drops over an 8-foot cascading falls and down a twisting, turbulent rapid. The river narrows abruptly below Woodall Shoals and begins its final challenging run to Tugaloo Reservoir. This is the most difficult stretch of whitewater on the Chattooga River, crashing between narrow canyon walls, over a succession of steeply dropping ledges, rapids, shoals and boiling whitewater. In the first mile to Stekoa Creek, the river rushes over two dangerous cascades and a constant series of smaller, turbulent rapids, and through a narrow 1/2 mile long canyon enclosed by rock walls several hundred feet high. At river mile 7.1 Stekoa Creek enters the river 2.8 miles above Tugaloo Reservoir.

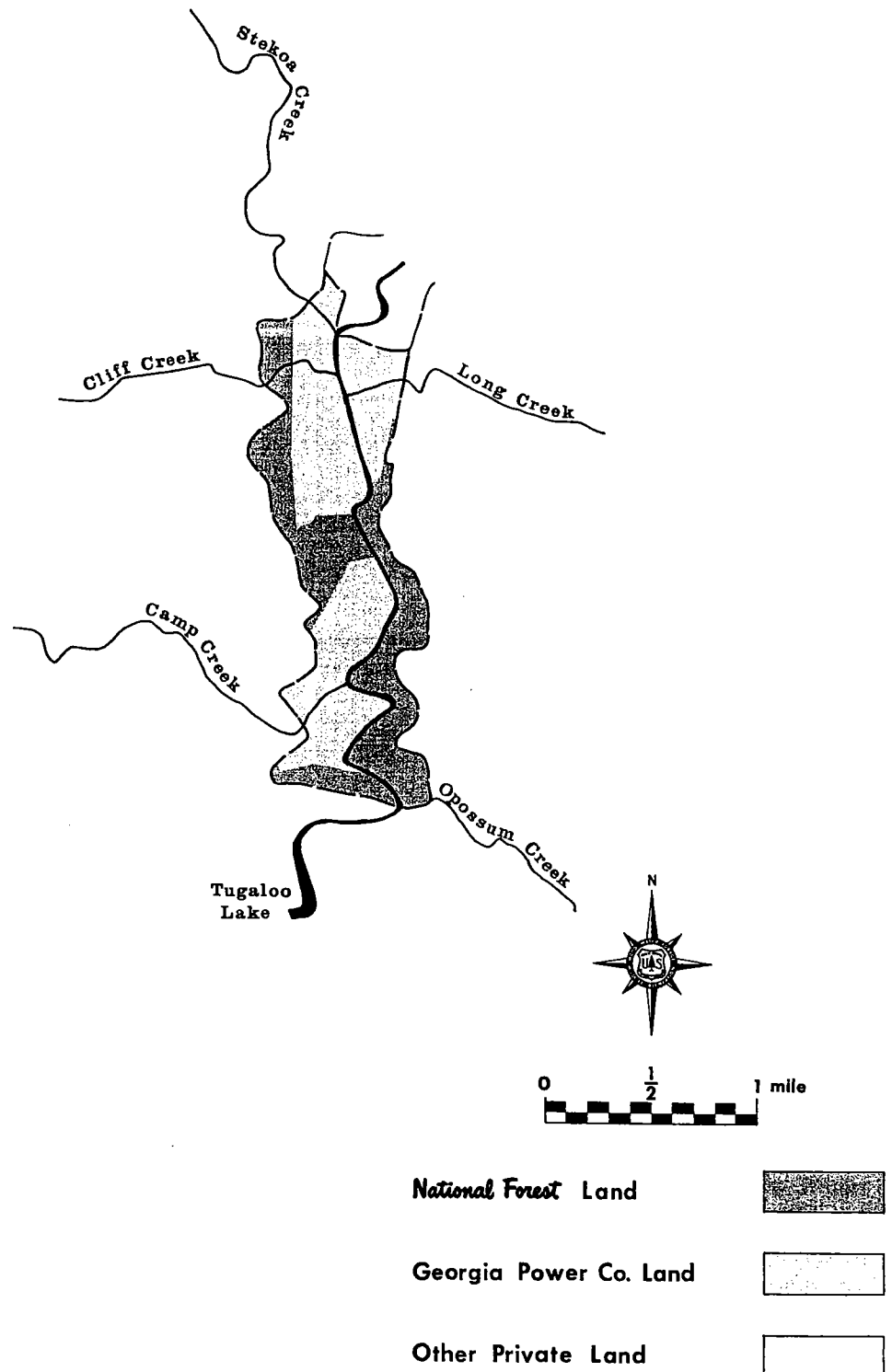
The 3-1/2 mile section of river from Bull Sluice to Stekoa Creek is a part of the most exciting whitewater course on the Chattooga River. It is primitive and undeveloped, with outstanding scenery. It qualifies for Scenic River status.



SHOOTING THE RAPIDS

Section 6 · Scenic Class

Chattooga River



SECTION 6—CONDITIONAL SCENIC RIVER CLASS

This section reaches from Stekoa Creek, river mile 2.8, to Tugaloo Reservoir. Because of poor water quality, it does not currently meet the criteria for inclusion in Wild, Scenic, or Recreation River.

Section 6 lies in a part of the most exciting, difficult, fast-dropping whitewater on the river. It is in a completely primitive state marked by continuous crashing rapids and shoals. It flows through an impressive gorge with cliffs on the east side rising over 400 feet above the water level. Several tributaries enter from waterfalls, including beautiful 60-foot high Long Creek Falls. In this 2.8 mile stretch there are over 45 major rapids and cascades. Enormous boulders and unusual rock formations are common. Once a floating party is launched, the continuous rapids and sheer canyon walls make it almost impossible to get out of the river. After the junction with Stekoa Creek, the river is badly polluted; therefore this section does not now meet the water quality criteria for Wild, Scenic, or Recreation River class.

Water quality is an important factor in determining whether or not a river can be recommended for National Wild and Scenic River status. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states specifically that the river must be unpolluted for Wild Classification. Although the Act does not mention pollution as a factor for Scenic classification, any portion of the river so recommended should be safe for the recreation uses that would occur upon it. This particularly concerns canoeing or boating with an occasional dunking of those using the stream. Forest Service Study Guidelines for all Wild and Scenic Rivers state that a river or reach cannot be recommended or classified for Wild or Scenic status unless it meets definite water quality standards. The most critical factor listed in these standards is fecal coliform count which relates to the amount of warm-blooded animal waste in the stream. These standards require that the river must meet Federal Water Pollution Control Administration primary contact standards for Wild River classification—that is, the water is suitable for swimming. The fecal coliform count may not exceed a mean of 200 per 100 Milliliter sample, nor more than 400 per 100 Milliliter sample in 10 percent of the samples taken over a period of time.

For Scenic River classification the Guidelines require the River to meet the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration secondary contact standards—that is, suitable for activities such as fishing or wading. The fecal coliform count for Scenic classification may not exceed a mean of 1000 per 100 Milliliter sample, nor exceed 2000 per 100 Milliliter in more than 10 percent of the samples.

Samples taken from 13 points on the Chattooga show that water quality presently meets Wild River standards except for the stretch below Stekoa Creek. The river below Stekoa Creek shows that fecal coliform counts average over 20 times more than is suitable

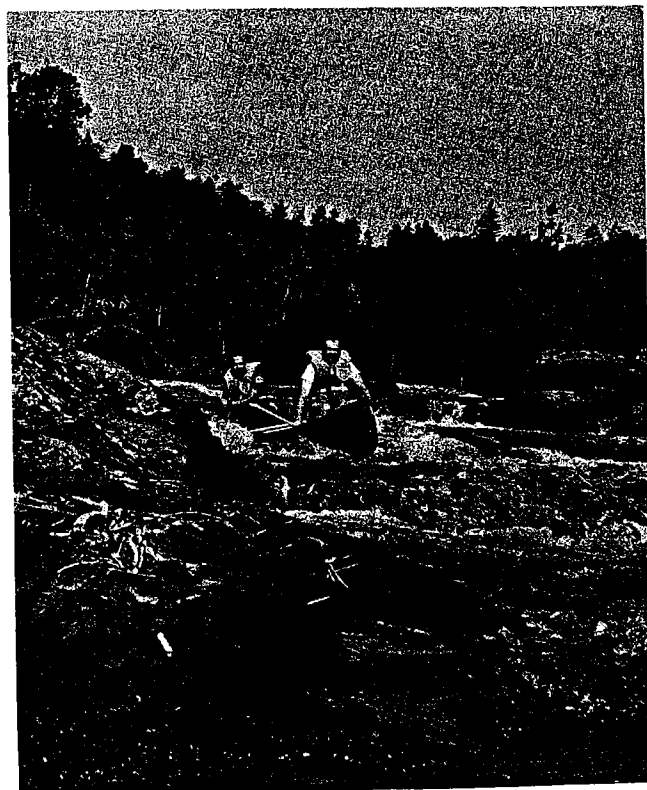
for Wild River classes and 4-1/2 times higher than that suitable for Scenic River classes.

Although no specific fecal coliform limits for Recreation River classes have been established, a recommendation cannot be made to include Section 6 in this class because of the high degree of pollution.

State Water Quality Boards or organizations retain the responsibility for establishing state stream quality standards and the authority to enforce these standards. The quality standards vary by states. Since the Chattooga River is shared by the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia there is a need for the 3 states to agree on interstate standards to protect the river. The states involved have initiated action on this.

The primary source of pollution is Stekoa Creek, coming from city sewage disposal on the headwaters of the Creek. A new sewage treatment plant is under construction and the pollution problem should be alleviated sometime in the latter part of 1970.

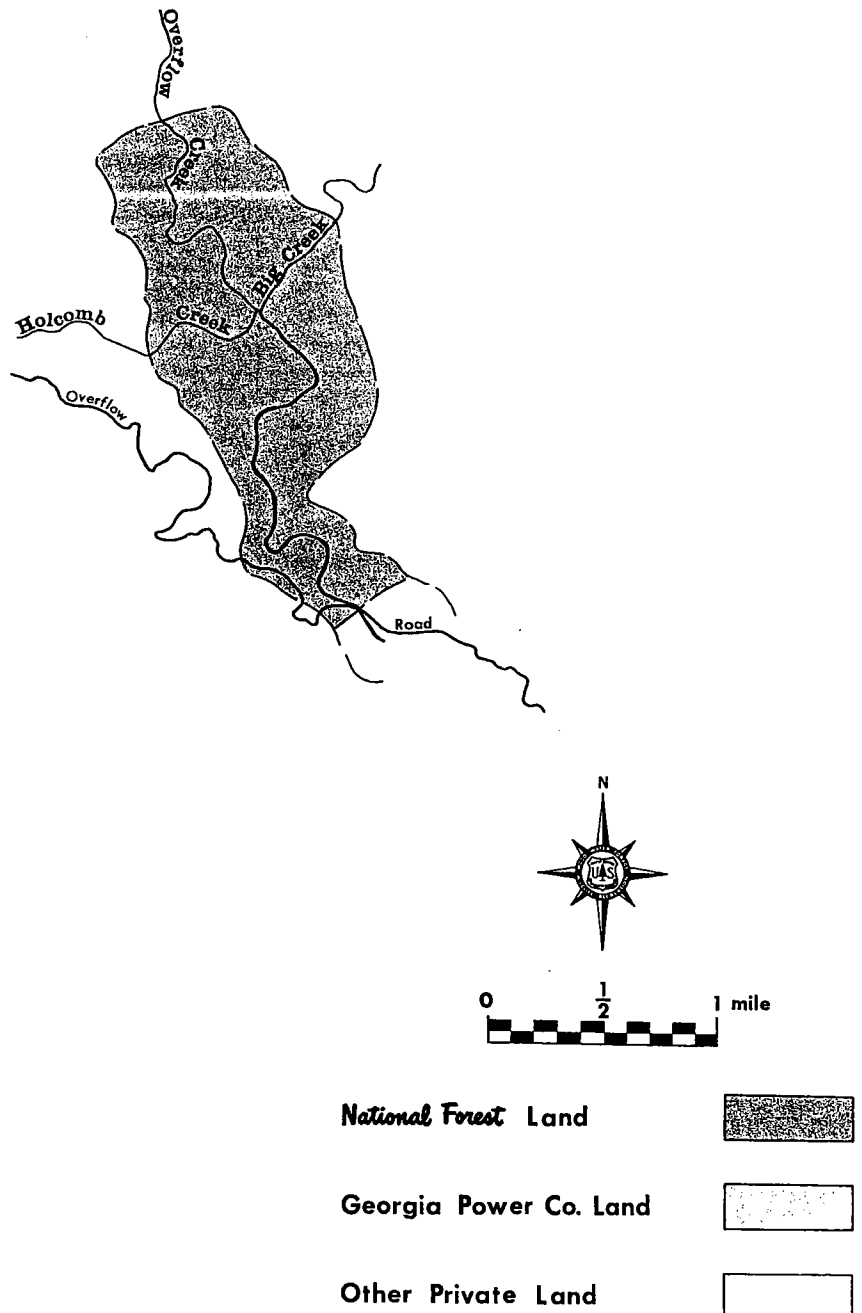
Because of these factors the formal study report will include a recommendation that Section 6 be included as a Scenic River class effective at such time as water quality standards are met. When this is accomplished 53.9 miles of the Chattooga River and 7.3 miles of the West Fork will have met the criteria for inclusion in the Nation's System of Wild and Scenic Rivers.



THE CHALLENGE POSSIBLE ON SECTION 6

Section 7 • Wild Class

West Fork Chattooga River



SECTION 7—WILD RIVER CLASS

This section includes a portion of the West Fork of the Chattooga and reaches from 1.3 miles above Three Forks on Overflow Creek to .1 mile above Overflow bridge (West Fork river mile 4.0), a distance of 3.3 miles.

The West Fork above Overflow bridge is wild and inaccessible. Because of the extremely rough terrain and lack of access, at least one-half day is necessary to view this segment. The use of floating equipment is impractical. Three creeks join at Three Forks, about 2 miles above Overflow bridge, to form the West Fork.

Holcomb Creek, the westernmost of the three, is a small, narrow, fast flowing mountain stream. About one-half mile above Three Forks, it drops over a small waterfall and crashes down a narrow, steep, rock-walled gorge, creating continuous whitewater. Cliffs rise vertically over 100 feet above the water on one side. Evidence of the great force of the water is seen in the numerous rock formations and round swirl holes cut into solid rock with auger-like precision. This stream has the appearance of a darkly shaded cataract hidden by gorge-like sides and cool, dense vegetation. A dim, precipitous trail winds through the vegetation above the stream. The lower one-half mile of Holcomb Creek meets Wild River criteria.

Overflow Creek is the middle stream of the Three Forks. It is a larger, wider and more smoothly flowing stream than either of the other two. Overflow averages 20 feet in width with gentle gradients broken by occasional small cascades and whitewater ripples. The

relatively wide flow is narrowed occasionally by large rocks lying in the streambed. This is a rather open, sunlit stream that could be easily walked by fishermen. The stream includes a beautiful 25-foot waterfall that is one of the most spectacular single features of the West Fork. The lower 1.3 miles of Overflow Creek meet Wild River criteria.

Big Creek is similar in size to Holcomb Creek. It flows between high ridges but is not as narrowly enclosed as the last portion of Holcomb Creek. Big Creek drops swiftly in a series of waterfalls and fast flowing pools. For 100 yards above Three Forks, the river flows in a washboard fashion over a series of ledges tilted at about 30 degrees. The steep rocky sides of the stream and the dense vegetation along its shoreline make it difficult to climb out of the streambed. The lower one-half mile of Big Creek meets Wild River criteria.

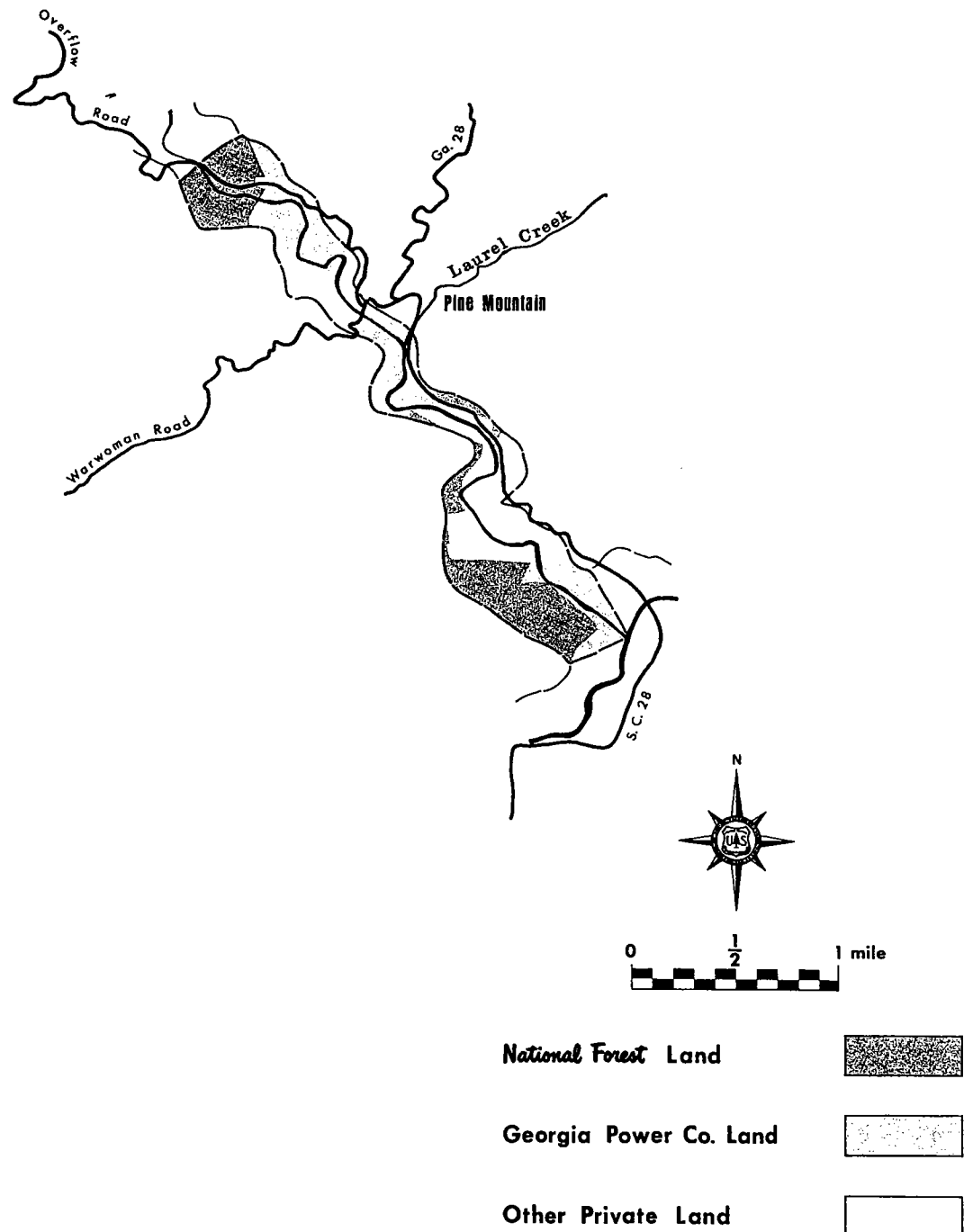
Holcomb and Big Creeks join Overflow Creek almost directly opposite at Three Forks. At the junction, river mile 6.0, a number of prominent large rocks jut out into the river and sheer cliffs rise almost vertically from the river. The two-mile section from Three Forks to Overflow bridge can barely be floated by rubber raft. Lack of accessibility makes floating this section impractical. The river runs from 30 to 60 feet in width and contains water of every description, from easy stretches to rapids and narrow turbulent shoals. This part of the West Fork and the three creeks forming it are excellent trout streams. The West Fork above Overflow bridge, including the last one-half mile of Holcomb and Big Creeks and the lower 1.3 miles of Overflow Creek, meets the criteria for Wild River Classification.



BIG CREEK AT THREE FORKS

Section 8 · Recreation Class

West Fork Chattooga River





A SHADED POOL

SECTION 8—RECREATION RIVER CLASS

This section covers a distance of 4.0 miles, reaching from one-tenth mile above Overflow bridge (West Fork river mile 4.0) to the junction with the Chattooga at river mile 29.4.

The West Fork below Overflow bridge changes abruptly into a different kind of river. Its character changes from whitewater in primitive surroundings to a slow-moving gentle stream in an area of moderate development. Overflow and Warwoman bridges, several fishing cabins, and evidence of logging to the water's edge occur in the first 2.6 mile segment. Overflow Road parallels the stream closely. From Warwoman bridge to the main Chattooga, the river banks show heavy use and considerable erosion. Noise from traffic on the roads creates a distracting influence. The river banks are high, almost vertical and generally block the view of surrounding develop-

ment from the water level. The slow moving river is most suitable for the canoeing novice. Several abandoned developments are in the lower reaches including old sandmining equipment, abandoned steel tanks, an old splash dam and the remains of an old low water bridge.

The eroded river banks throughout this segment have contributed a number of sand and silt deposits along the stream course.

The lower 4.0 mile section of the West Fork, from Overflow Bridge to the Chattooga, does not meet the criteria for Wild or Scenic Rivers. This is largely because of the development of summer homes, farms, paralleling roads and other evidence of man's use along its length. The section provides an easy stretch of water for canoeing, is easily accessible by road, and meets the criteria for Recreation Rivers.

MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Section 2(b) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act contains such phrases as "inaccessible except by trail", "shorelines essentially primitive", and "representing vestiges of primitive America". These phrases suggest rugged experiences to be enjoyed in a natural setting which requires a degree of self-sufficiency. Preservation of this environment will provide the guidelines for the development and management plan for the Chattooga as a Wild and Scenic River. It will also govern determination of the compatibility of other uses and resource management activities.

RECREATION

Compatible recreation uses must be determined in accordance with objectives set by the Act. Many activities, such as motorized land travel, are ruled out in Wild and Scenic sections. In the broad category of camping, only primitive camping is appropriate within the boundaries of the Chattooga. Hunting and fishing are recognized as compatible uses within the Wild and Scenic River boundaries. The waters of the Chattooga are ideal for floating in canoes and rubber rafts, especially in the lower reaches.

Use of motor boats must be prohibited, not only because of the noise factor, but because they are a source of oil and gas leaks. Shallow water and protruding rocks would naturally preclude their use.

Hiking will be an important activity along the Chattooga. It will provide another method of seeing most

of the river. Although horseback riding might seem to be a compatible use, the nearness of riding trails to the river would be a probable source of contamination. Because of this possibility, horseback riding within the boundaries has been ruled out.

The following recreation uses are considered to be compatible with a Wild and Scenic River and will be planned—

- Floating - by raft, canoe, and kayak.
- Hiking - sightseeing, nature study, photography.
- Hunting - both big and small game.
- Fishing - for trout and bass.
- Primitive camping - related to floating and hiking along the river.

Recreation uses for the entire river must be planned on the basis of Wild and Scenic status even though a portion of the river is recommended for Recreation classification. Public demand for a particular recreation use is often the deciding factor in recreation planning. In this case, however, public demand cannot be used as a planning or regulating factor. To preserve the qualities that make the river suitable for inclusion in the System, the saturation level will be considered instead. Saturation level is defined as that amount of recreation use which can be supported within the boundaries of the river without damage to or impairment of these qualities.



PLANTS TO STUDY AND PHOTOGRAPH



HIKING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Management of the Chattooga will include continuous observation of use. Effects on vegetation, soil and water will be analyzed in comparison with criteria established at the time of inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Hiking trails will be one of the major recreation improvements within the River boundary. Generally, these trails will traverse both sides of the river. They will be designed to offer the hiker both direct, close-up views and high, long-range views of the river.

Sites for launching canoes, kayaks, rubber rafts and other floating equipment will be needed along the river. In most cases launching sites on existing sand bars will be used since these bars are replenished by periodic flooding and artificial reinforcement is unnecessary.

Parking lots will be necessary in conjunction with launch points. These will be small and located outside the boundary with trail access to the river's edge.

Campsites will be desirable at intervals of approximately one day's travel distance. These campsites will be of a primitive nature and accessible only by foot or river travel. The sites will be reinforced to minimize wear caused by continual use.

To enable water travelers to use the river safely, portages must be constructed around the most danger-

ous whitewater areas such as falls, sluices and shoals. These portages will be designed and built to minimize wear along the river's banks and still be in keeping with the environment.

Visitors to the river will need information, ranging from the casual to the specific. Serious users will need precise data on water levels, canoeing information, campsite locations and other facts. Most of this information can be furnished by Forest officers in the area. Specific Visitor Information Service sites will also be needed as use increases.

TIMBER

Timber Management within the boundaries of the Chattooga will be for recreation, watershed, aesthetic and wildlife values rather than for commercial production. The role and objective of timber management will be the protection and production of healthy, vigorous stands of trees of all ages and species common to the area and will be utilized only to enhance and complement recreation uses and other resources. This approach will be the same on all sections of the river regardless of whether classified as Wild, Scenic, or Recreation. Some cutting may be necessary for scenic improvement or to improve specific wildlife habitat requirements.



WILD ANIMALS TO STUDY, PHOTOGRAPH
AND HUNT

WILDLIFE

Lands within the boundaries of the Chattooga are not within an established Wildlife Management Area. These lands will not be included in any Wildlife Management Area nor will they be closed to hunting under Section 8(a) of Public Law 90-542. Large scale wildlife habitat manipulation will be kept outside the river boundary. The narrow, generally rough terrain within the proposed boundary limits habitat manipulation opportunities. Should small scale habitat work be necessary, it will be done with aesthetic and scenic values in mind. Hunting of both big and small game can be sustained at the present level without additional habitat improvement or damage to the habitat from over-populations.

FISHERIES

The Chattooga is considered adequate for native trout stocking but is not outstanding trout water. In past years some areas have been stocked with catchable-size trout, but this practice will not be encouraged. If possible, the stream will be stocked with

fingerling-size fish which will be allowed to grow to catchable size. Although this system is not the most efficient way to produce fish it is considered more in keeping with the Wild and Scenic River concept.

WATER

All activities will continue to be directed toward the production and maintenance of high-quality water in the Chattooga. Removal of water from the river for agricultural uses or industrial purposes is not anticipated.

MINERALS

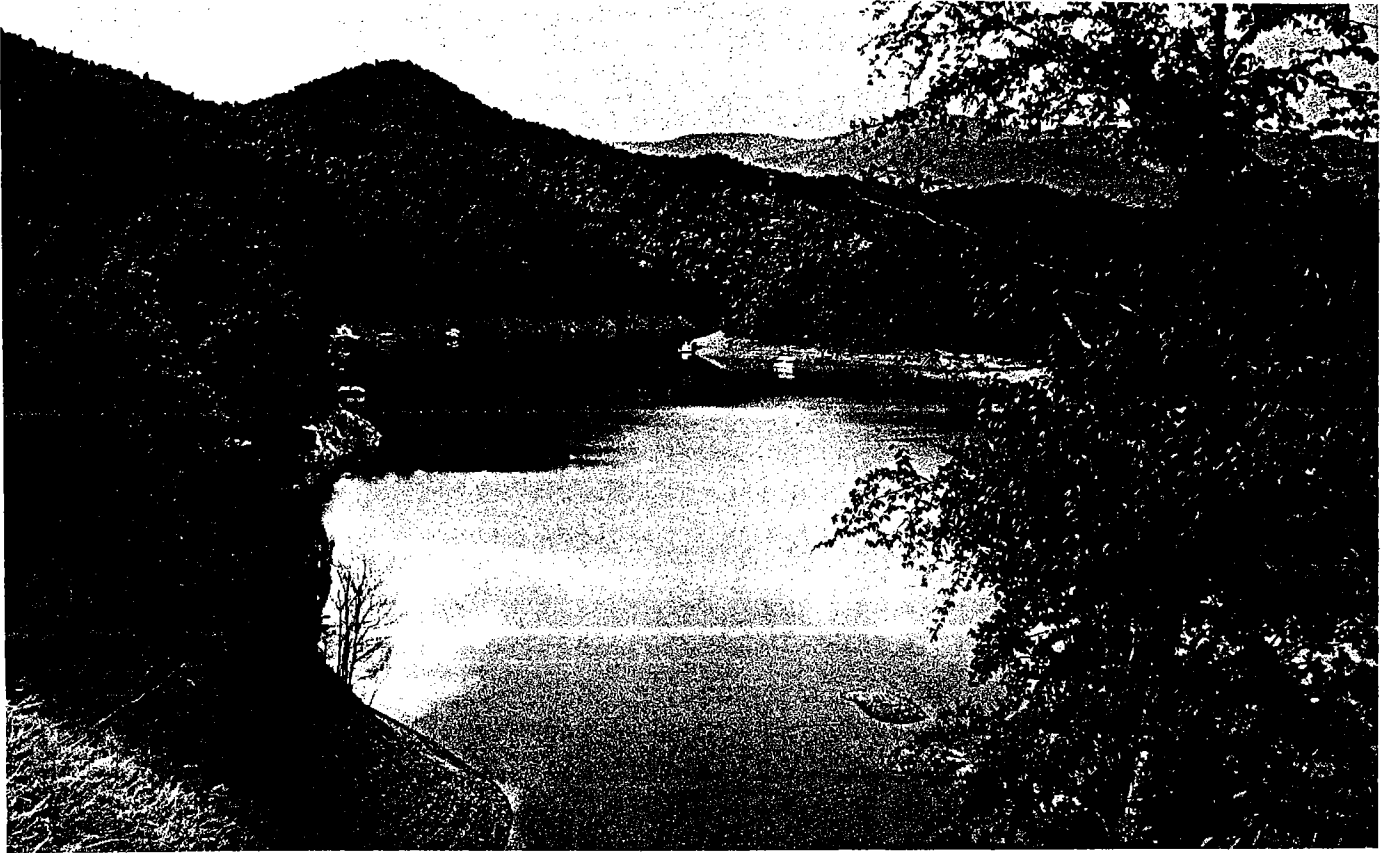
The extraction of minerals through open pit, strip, placer or shaft mining is not compatible with Wild and Scenic River status. There are no mining activities within the proposed boundaries except a small sand mining operation near the Highway 76 bridge crossing. Management objectives will be to exclude all mining and prospecting activities within the proposed Chattooga boundary.

ADMINISTRATION

Land area within the recommended boundaries of the Chattooga River falls within three Ranger Districts. These Districts are within the boundaries of three National Forests—the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia, the Sumter National Forest in South Carolina, and the Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina. No Federal agencies outside the U.S. Forest Service are involved in the actual land management. Management and administration of the Chattooga as a Wild and Scenic River would continue under the present guidance of the three District Rangers from the three National Forests involved. They will continue to work closely with each other in the management of the River and with the respective State Game and Fish Commissions, State Water Quality Control Boards and other State agencies concerned with the protection of fish and wildlife, water quality and the overall management of the River.

LAND ACQUISITION

Almost half the total land area within the proposed boundaries is National Forest land. The remaining land will be classified as to its importance in protecting the river in terms of water quality, scenic values, and public access or development. Land acquired in fee will be on a willing buyer-willing seller basis. Protection of the river in cases where fee title is not needed will be insured through scenic easements.



RECREATION ON A MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR

ALTERNATIVE USES

Uses of the river and the lands within the proposed boundaries may be listed as: Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Municipal.

Water from the Chattooga is not used for irrigation or other agricultural purposes. The small amount of farmland within the proposed boundary has already been reforested or is being used primarily as pastureland. Inclusion of the Chattooga in the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers would have no effect on existing or future agricultural development along the river.

Except for potential reservoir sites no commercial, industrial or municipal uses of the river can be identified. Except for narrow strips of privately-owned land along the river and a limited area of summer homes at the Grimshaws and Highway 28 bridge crossings, the river is surrounded by National Forests.

Cashiers, a village on the extreme headwaters, is the only established community near the river. Rugged terrain and ownership patterns within the proposed boundaries will restrict future municipal development on the river. Private lands would probably become intensively developed for summer homesites if the river is not classified as Wild and Scenic. Only those parcels of land at Highway 28 and U.S. 76 crossings would likely be developed for commercial

or industrial uses.

No flood control benefits would be relinquished if the Chattooga is classified as a free flowing Wild and Scenic River. The flow is almost entirely through forested country and reservoirs would offer no flood control advantages.

Several water development projects have been proposed for the river at different times. None of these proposals has reached a level of detailed planning. A broad proposal exists for the Corps of Engineers to connect the Savannah and Tennessee River Basins with a barge canal. This proposal is still quite vague and no study has been made of possible routes or overall feasibility of the project.

Georgia Power Company has had an interest in hydroelectric development of the Chattooga since the early 1920's, when the Company acquired lands along the river.

Three studies have been made of hydroelectric development of the Chattooga. Two of these studies were made by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and were published as—

—House Document No. 64 - 74th Congress, January 1935.

—House Document No. 657 - 78th Congress, June 1944.

In September 1963, a report was made by the U.S. Study Commission on a plan for development of the Land and Water Resource of the Southeast River Basins. This report is Senate Document No 51. 88th Congress. The Study Commission proposal consists of four dam and reservoir projects — Warwoman at river mile 20.4, Sand Bottom at river mile 17.7, Rogues Ford at river mile 11.0 and Camp Creek at river mile 4.9.

Activation of this proposal would leave only 22 miles of free flowing river upstream from Nicholson Fields, which would not be suitable for canoeing. These projects would eliminate all Wild and Scenic River possibilities from Nicholson Fields, river mile 32, to the head of Tugaloo Lake.

The River Basin Report indicates an annual economic value of \$9,228,000 from power generation (1960 dollars) and recreation user days increasing to 260,000 by the year 2,000. An annual equivalent benefit of \$369,000 has been placed on the recreation use.

The Federal Power Commission, in answer to a request for its evaluation of the power potential on the Chattooga, proposed two alternatives. Each alternative involved three impoundments on the river. The

first proposed dams at—

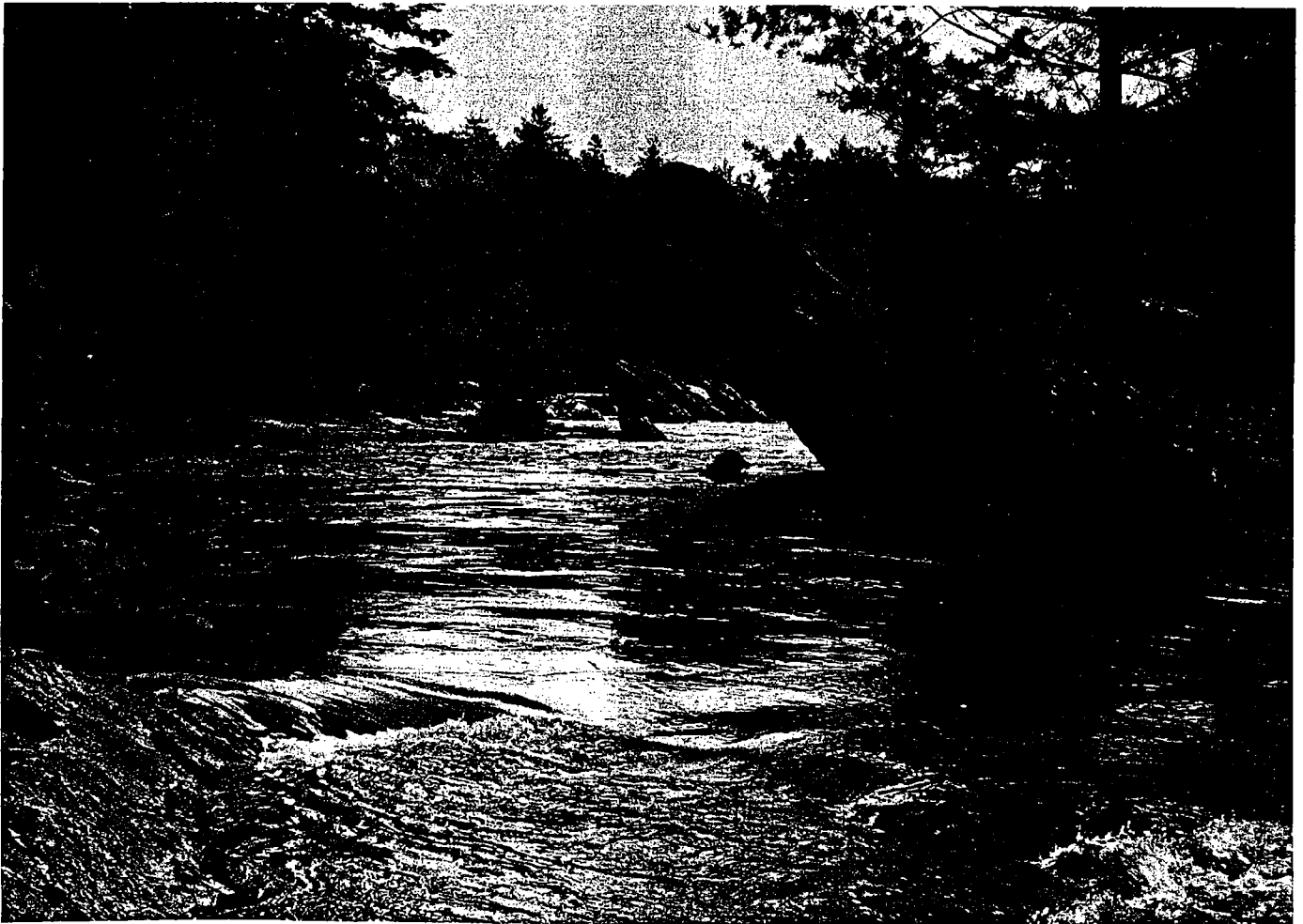
- Cashiers, river mile 46.9, pool size 450 acres.
- Rogues Ford, river mile 11.3, pool size 5800 acres.
- Opossum Creek, river mile 4.9, pool size 1000 acres.

The second alternative proposed dams at—

- Cashiers, river mile 46.9, pool size 450 acres.
- Sand Bottom, river mile 17.7, pool size 5800 acres.
- Opossum Creek, river mile 4.9, pool size 3200 acres.

Either proposal by the Federal Power Commission would leave the Chattooga unsuitable for Wild and Scenic River purposes. The structure at Cashiers would interrupt the free-flowing characteristics necessary for inclusion and render the remaining 18-20 mile stretch un-canoeable.

Hydroelectric power was the only benefit considered in the FPC preliminary analysis. Considerable recreational opportunity would be provided by the developments. The analysis indicated annual equivalent benefit from power would range from 38.7 to 30.1 millions of dollars.



THE ROCK GARDENS

PUBLIC MEETING

Persons wishing to express their views on this proposal are invited to attend a public meeting at 10 a.m. March 17, 1970 in the Rabun County Courthouse, Clayton, Georgia.

Those unable to attend this meeting may submit written statements before April 17, 1970. Written statements, as well as questions about the proposal, should be addressed to either of the following:

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
Suite 800
1720 Peachtree Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
P. O. Box 1437
Gainesville, Georgia 30501

Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
P. O. Box 2750
Asheville, North Carolina 28802

Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
1612 Marion Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Written statements received prior to April 17, 1970 will be made a part of the record of the meeting. All views presented will be included with the recommendations of the Secretary of Agriculture to the President and Congress.

